

What is claimed is:

1. A method for loading a glass processing installation, wherein glass plates are stored in a storage unit, the 5 method comprising the following steps:

step a) extracting at least partially a glass plate from the storage unit; and

10 step b) dividing the glass plate into a residual portion, which is stored in the storage unit, and a loading portion, which is delivered to the glass processing installation;

15 wherein steps a and b being repeated such that glass plates are extracted from the storage unit and loading portions are delivered to the glass processing installation in a predetermined sequence.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the glass plates are stored in the storage unit in an essentially vertical position.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein in step a the glass plate is only partially extracted from the storage unit such that for dividing the glass plate the residual portion is supported by the storage unit.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein

the glass plate, while being divided according to step b, is in an essentially vertical position, and wherein the loading portion is displaced in a translational 30 manner or tilted to an essentially horizontal position or both for its delivery to the glass processing installation.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the glass plate, while being divided according to step b, is supported at least partially by a supporting surface of the glass processing installation and divided by a dividing device of the glass 5 processing installation.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein in step a the glass plate is completely pulled out of the storage unit and wherein the residual portion of the glass plate is moved 10 back into the storage unit after dividing it according to step b.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the glass plates are withdrawn from a storage space and delivered to the storage 15 unit by translational displacement such that they essentially remain in the same position during the displacement.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the loading portion is 20 re-positioned after delivery to the glass processing installation by means of mechanical stops or by optical scanning or both.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein in step a the glass 25 plate is displaced only partially to a displaceable tilting table, such that in step b the loading portion is supported by the tilting table, and wherein the loading portion is delivered to the glass processing unit by tilting and displacing the tilting table.

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10. The method of claim 1, wherein, if required, a glass plate stored in the storage unit is delivered to the glass

processing installation without dividing it into a residual and loading portion.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one glass 5 plate stored, from which a loading portion is separated, is provided with at least two different scribing lines before performing step b.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one loading 10 portion, which is to be separated from a glass plate, is completely scribed before performing step b, such that the loading portion, after severing and delivering to the glass processing installation, is adapted to be divided in the desired portions without another scribing operation.

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13. A device for loading a glass processing installation, comprising:

a storage unit with at least two compartments, each compartment being capable of receiving at least one glass 20 plate,

and displacing means for displacing a glass plate in a compartment at least partially out of the compartment.

14. The device of claim 13, further comprising dividing 25 means or being adapted to be coupled to dividing means or both, wherein each compartment is adapted to support a glass plate contained therein while a portion is severed from the glass plate by means of the dividing means.

30 15. The device of claim 13, wherein the compartments comprise each gliding means, such that the stored glass plates can glide along the compartments.

16. The device of claim 13, wherein the compartments comprise each a supporting surface for supporting a glass plate contained therein in an essentially vertical position.

5 17. The device of claim 16, wherein the angle between the supporting surface and the vertical line is between 0 and 10 degree.

10 18. The device of claim 13, further comprising a transfer unit for supporting at least partially a glass plate contained in one of the compartments while a portion of the glass plate is cut off,

15 the transfer unit being displaceable between the storage unit and the glass processing installation for delivering the portion cut off to the glass processing installation.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein the transfer unit comprises a tilting table for tilting and displacing the portion cut off.

20. The device of claim 13, wherein the storage unit is displaceable, such that a glass plate contained in one of the compartments can be moved at least partially to the 25 glass processing installation.

21. The device of claim 13, further comprising a loading unit for receiving a glass plate and displacing it into a compartment of the storage unit.

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22. The device of claim 21, wherein the loading unit is displaceable.

23. The device of claim 13, further comprising a cutting tool, which is displaceable along at least two directions.

24. A glass processing installation comprising a device for implementing the method of claim 1 or a device of claim 13.

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